



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

This month's meeting will be on Oct. 17 at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental center.

The first agenda item is the nomination of new officers. It's time for some new blood to run this club, so please step up and help.

The positions don't require a lot of time and there is always help when needed.

Please keep Sam, W5LTP, and his wife, Bea, in your thoughts and prayers. Bea was struck with a car while cycling with a friend in Napa.

It was nice to have the group over for our annual picnic.

I still have over a dozen of the 12V, 7AH batteries courtesy of Rachel's brother. I will show a simple charger circuit that was in the last issue of QST. If you have an old 12V "wall wart" type power supply, bring it to the meeting.

Looking forward to this weekend's Pacificon in Santa Clara.

Hope to see you all the the meeting.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

SCRA Classes available

The next SCRA Technician class (and coordinated exam session after the class) is on November 2, 3 and 4, as follows:

- Friday Nov. 2 from 6PM until 9PM

- Saturday Nov. 3 from 8AM until 5:30 PM
- Sunday Nov. 4 from 8AM until 2:30PM. The exam begins at 3PM that Sunday.

I also want to invite you all to attend the free follow-on class that has been created just for you on Friday, November 9th from 6PM until 9PM. The title of the class is "How to Assemble your Amateur Radio Station and How to Operate it."

This class is to help you take the next steps after you earn your license. We will investigate what you want to do in amateur radio, what equipment you need to accomplish your goal, how you get the equipment that's right for you (including equipment costs and what features you need/don't need), and finally, how to put your station together and how to operate it.

The class locations are to be determined!

Please contact Jeff Tonelli (707-539-3272) know if you would like to attend.

—Submitted by: John, WB6FRZ
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
707 217 1017

Large Antenna Array Here is quite an antenna

Here's something that is both a sight AND a sound - Tonno ES5TV has finally completed his 5-year project of building a [double H-frame 15 meter antenna array](#). The antenna system has 8 pairs of 5-element Optibeam OB5-15 monoband Yagis, separated by 12 meters horizontally and 14 meters vertically, with the

highest at 64 meters above the ground. Are there any bigger 15 meter arrays out there? Tonno is now trying 15 meter EME (no kidding!) but will have to wait when the MUF is low enough for the ionosphere to pass 21 MHz signals. (From ARRL Contest Update)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

SM7DXQ



Judy and I spent the last week of our European trip visiting Mats, SM7DXQ, and XYL. Brigitta.

The above picture shows his 4 element Stepp-IR antenna. He uses an ICOM IC-746 and a British made linear.

His accomplishments include 5 band DXCC and the DX Honor Roll; he only needs Peter 1 and P5(N. Korea) to have worked them all.

Mats is also an avid IOTA (Islands on the Air) chaser.

We tried to work the west coast but didn't hear any 6's but the East coast just rolls in with 59+ signals.

He may come to the DX convention next year, so I hope to see him again there.

—Jim, K6UUW

ON CALL Sonoma Valley ACS

This month's subjects have to do with net operations. Two topics come to mind after

listening to our Monday night net and the nets conducted by other Sonoma Op Area units and some of the nets of adjoining operational areas.

1. Once you check in to a net, don't leave without letting the net control station know. Our ACS SOP (page 25) provides:

Never leave a net without checking out.

If you know you will be unable to participate for an interval, tell that to the NCS before you leave.

Check in with the NCS when you return.

Never depart the end of your shift without making certain that the NCS knows that you are leaving."

These are good rules that make the net work smoothly. If you want to check in and leave immediately because dinner is on the table or you must go to another engagement, just tell the NCS. Thanks.

2. When checking in to the net, it is most often not necessary to use phonetics to make your call understood. Communications quality on VHF and UHF is usually good and, besides, the NCS knows the stations who usually check in and will likely have no problem recognizing the call.

If you do need to use phonetics, USE the approved ones, the ITU standard. Do not make up new words for the phonetics. The whole point of using phonetics is to substitute word recognition for syllable recognition. The English alphabet has many letters that sound the same ... with the long 'EEE' sound, and these letters are very hard to distinguish when only the letter itself is pronounced. Saying 'E' could easily be confused with 'T' or 'D'. However, if you say 'ECHO' for E and 'TANGO' for T using phonetics, there is little chance of confusion.

Our nets always sound better when we operate smoothly and professionally. Phonetics are an important tool for us to use.

—Ken McTaggart N6KM, Unit Leader, S.V. ACS

2012 ACS Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JIM	K6UUW
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2012 VOMARC Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	W1EJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY	FRANK	KG6N
JUNE	ED	W1EJ
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

Radio Equipment for Sale

—Contact Bruce WB6QLJ (707) 763-9745

Bird 4362 "HamMate" wattmeter	\$75.00
Astron RS-35M Power Supply	\$50.00
AEA QT-1 HF Antenna Tuner	\$50.00
Telewave Model 44 Wattmeter	\$450.00
Wavetek / CT - 2100 Service Monitor	\$600.00
PK-232 Packet Controller	\$50.00
Icom IC-2200 Mobile Radio	\$200.00
Icom IC-37 Mobile Radio	\$150.00
Kenwood TM-731 Dual Bander	\$175.00
Kenwood TM-741 Tri Bander	\$275.00
Kenwood TS-50 HF Mobile	\$300.00
Kenwood TS-440 HF Base Station	\$400.00
Kenwood THG-71A Dual Band HT	\$150.00
Kenwood TH-F6 Dual Band HT	\$250.00

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Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of
each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma
Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire
Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local
(7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30
P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350
repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on
the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station
is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of
each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant,
18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at
09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE Wed, October 17, 7:30pm at McDougal Hall in the Sonoma
Developmental Center at Eldridge**

SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2012 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National
Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.